



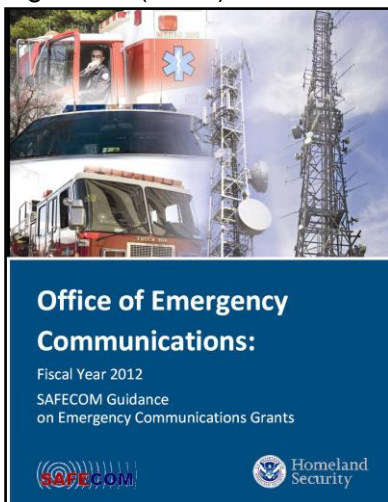
## Public Safety Communications Highlights

- A new 6-minute video about broadband in Montana is available on the Montana Broadband website at this link: <http://www.broadband.mt.gov>.
- Helena's new 9-1-1 dispatch center equipment has been installed, and they are currently "burning in" the system.
- Two Motorola System Technologists in the field and Motorola's Central System Engineering are working on a recently identified system-wide issue that has been affecting MCC7500 console sites.
- Charlie Gilmore, Lewis and Clark County Radio System Administrator, is attending training this week at Motorola headquarters, located in Schaumburg, IL.

## Dupuis Presents Report to Interim Education & Government Legislative Committee

On Mon., Jan.23, Warren Dupuis, Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), addressed the Interim Education & Government Legislative Committee with an informative report about the Montana Public Safety Communications System. He provided some history on interoperability in Montana and described the intent of the Governor's Executive Order 13-2011, which established a Statewide Interoperability Governing Board (SIGB).

In an overview of the current status of the system, up-to-date statewide maps of the status of the microwave and trunked radio systems were displayed along with system metrics and coverage maps. FY 2012 Emergency Communications Priorities from the draft Office of



Emergency Communications SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants also were presented. In addition, a flow chart of the expected technological evolution of public safety communications system was exhibited.

Warren closed his presentation with information about a Legislative Working Group that is being formed for the purpose of drafting legislation to:

- Codify the role, responsibility and authority of the SIGB.
- To secure funding for the long-term operation and maintenance of the system.
- To secure funding for planning and match requirements to build out the system.

To listen or watch the presentation, visit the Montana Legislative website by clicking [here](#) and fast forward to 2:14:41. For a complete copy of the slides used in the presentation, please click [here](#).

## Tri-County Consortium Meeting Informative

Members of the Tri-County Consortium met in Montana City on Wed., Jan. 25 with representatives from Broadwater, Jefferson and Lewis and Clark Counties as well as the Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB) and the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator's (SWIC) office.

Sheriff Leo Dutton, one of the five members of the Statewide Interoperability Governing Board (SIGB), gave a brief overview of SIGB activities and updated members on the status of various grants previously awarded to the Interoperability Montana project. (For a complete list of SIGB members, visit: <http://itsd.mt.gov/policy/councils/sigb/members.mcp>).

Sheriff Dutton indicated that the SIGB is addressing issues of how to complete and maintain Montana's Public Safety Communications System. It is looking at a funding model similar to that used by the 9-1-1 Program. His job, as a representative of the Montana Sheriff's and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA), is to promote the needs of local government. He emphasized the importance of local participation at SIGB meetings. Sheriff Dutton also reported on the SIGB Technical Working Group.

Members discussed the need to develop a regional communication plan for the Tri-County Consortium. They also discussed fleet mapping and code plugs.

Carl Hotvedt, Dept. of Administration-SITSD, reported on the status of FY 2009 and 2010 DHS

# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

grants, and indicated that the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) emphasis is on applying for planning grants to pay for administrative work, such as NEPAs, permits, project plans, budgets, construction documents, frequency coordination and RFPs, up front so that total project costs and timeframes are accurately forecast prior to breaking ground on a project.

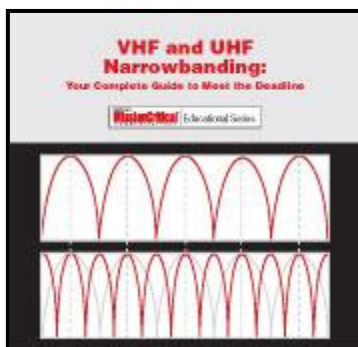
Sheriff Doolittle said that construction improvements at the Boulder Hill site are complete, including microwave dishes on the tower. He has trunking frequencies, but does not have trunking equipment. Sheriff Dutton indicated that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Form 299 needs to be submitted for the Hogback site. Sheriff Ludwig, Broadwater County, said the Limestone site needs trunking and microwave. Microwave hops are needed to complete the path from Nixon to Limestone to Hogback.

The next meeting will be scheduled in a month or so, probably on a Tuesday. The consortium will meet at the Hardware Café in Montana City from 10:00 am to noon.

## **MissionCritical Communications Debuts Narrowbanding eBook**

Reprinted with permission from *MissionCritical Communications* magazine [www.MCCmag.com](http://www.MCCmag.com); (1/25/12)

RadioResource Media Group launched the *MissionCritical Communications* Educational Series with its first electronic book on VHF and UHF narrowbanding. With the deadline less than a year away, the free eBook offers invaluable information for licensees working to meet the FCC mandate. Click [here](#) to read more.



## **Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants**

The FY 2011 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants application period opened on Mon., Jan. 30 and will run until Fri., Feb. 24. SAFER grants provide financial assistance to help fire departments augment or

restore staffing and deployment capabilities so they may more effectively respond to emergencies.

The SAFER Grant Program Guidance and Application Kit is now posted on the [AFG Website](#). Applicants should read the new [FY 2011 SAFER Grants Program Guidance](#) to fully understand award criteria, funding priorities and special instructions for applying.

SAFER grants are comprised of two primary categories: the Hiring of Firefighters Activity and the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity. The application narrative must include a description of the project, a statement on the impact on daily operations, information on financial need, cost/benefit explanation and information on grant performance abilities.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants>.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

- **Tues., Feb. 7: Statewide Interoperability Governing Board (SIGB)**  
Helena • 10:00 am - noon  
State Capitol, Room 152  
[http://itsd.mt.gov/policy/councils/sigb/02072012\\_meeting.mcp](http://itsd.mt.gov/policy/councils/sigb/02072012_meeting.mcp)
- **Mon. - Thurs., Feb. 13-17: Communications Technician (COMT) Training** [Link to Course Description](#)  
Fort Harrison • 8:00 am - 5:00 pm daily  
Armed Forces Reserve Center  
Regional Training Institute (RTI) Rm. 12; Contact: Michael Stapp, Planner, DES; [mstapp@mt.gov](mailto:mstapp@mt.gov) or 406-324-4786
- **Thurs., Feb. 16: Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Consortium**  
Bozeman • 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Gallatin Co. Detention Center Community Room  
611 South 16<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- **Tues., Feb. 28: State Agency Radio Users Task Force Meeting**  
Helena • 3:00 - 4:30 pm  
Mitchell Building, 125 N. Roberts, Rm. 160
- **Thurs. - Fri., March 15 and 16: Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Training**  
Billings • 8:00 am - 5:00 pm daily  
Fire Station #1, 2300 9th Ave. North  
Note: These are two one-day sessions. March 15 is an overview on Exercise Design and the HSEEP Toolkit.  
March 16 focuses on Exercise Design with a practicum.  
Contact: Lindsey Shafer, HSEEP Coordinator, DES; [lshafer@mt.gov](mailto:lshafer@mt.gov) or 406-324-4780